

Merry Christmas from First United Methodist Church - DeRidder!



*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
~Isaiah 9:6*

 First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 965
DeRidder, LA 70634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Permit #53

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS!

Advent Season ~

The Christmas season is upon us which is a joy for many and a struggle for others. One of the things that helps us get through the season when it is hard is the worship service that we call **Blue Christmas**. This service can help anyone who is struggling for whatever reason – loss of a loved one, loss of work, doubts about your faith, loss of a home or difficulty in a relationship. You are invited to come this night, December 5th at 5 pm, to prayerfully find healing for you and/or your family during this holiday season. We will gather in the main sanctuary. The service will be about 45 minutes to an hour, so hopefully you can get home before it is completely dark.

We will also be offering you two worship services for **Christmas Eve**. Last year, we had to do so because of Covid. However, this choice was so well received to meet your Christmas Eve family time that we will continue with it again for this year. The first service offered will be at 5:30 pm. The second service offered will be at 8 pm. Each service will offer Christmas hymns, a children's time, a Christmas message, Holy Communion and, of course, candlelight being sung to the beautiful hymn "Silent Night." Handbells will be played at the 5:30 PM service.

Also know that we are working on a special surprise in December so stay tuned for further details. The surprise does not involve Santa, however it still involves Christmas and something you will really enjoy. God bless you all!

Love, joy and peace,
Laraine

*Women's Prayer Breakfast
Thursday, December 2nd
Conference Room
8:30 AM*

*Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 5th
Sanctuary
5:00 PM*

**Beauregard Retired Teachers
Christmas Luncheon!
Thursday, December 9th
9:00 AM Fellowship Hall**

**FUMC - DeRidder's Annual
Lessons & Carols Service
Thursday, December 9th
6:00 PM
Sanctuary**

Poinsettias!
Final orders are due on Sunday, December 12th. Please place your order form and \$10 in the offering plate on Sundays or bring to the Church Office. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after whichever Christmas Eve Service you attend or the following Sunday worship service.
Thank you!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services with
Communion**

Friday, December 24th
5:30 PM & 8:00 PM
Sanctuary

**Hand Bell Choir will play only at the 5:30 PM service*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**G.O.(H).D.
SQUAD**



**Breakfast with Santa at the
Wooten Theater!**

**Saturday, December 4th
8 AM & 10 AM**

Complimentary breakfast and selfies with Santa is right around the corner! We need church volunteers to help prepare/serve breakfast and for set up/breakdown. Please call the Church Office if you are interested. Be sure to wear your G(H)OD Squad t-shirt and jingle bell accessories!!!!

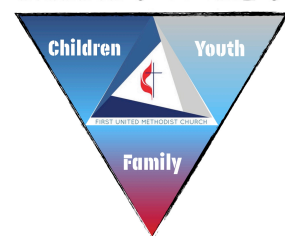


The Church Office will be closed beginning at 12 PM on Christmas Eve, and will re-open on Monday, December 27th - Friday, December 31st from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. We will return to our regular Church Office Hours on Monday, January 3, 2021. We hope you all have a blessed, relaxing holiday season!


**Erin Tepley
Church Office Administrator
Office: 337-463-4491
erin@fumcderidder.org**

Follow all our online worship services on Facebook at First United Methodist Church - DeRidder, or on our YouTube page: DeridderFUMC

MINISTRIES

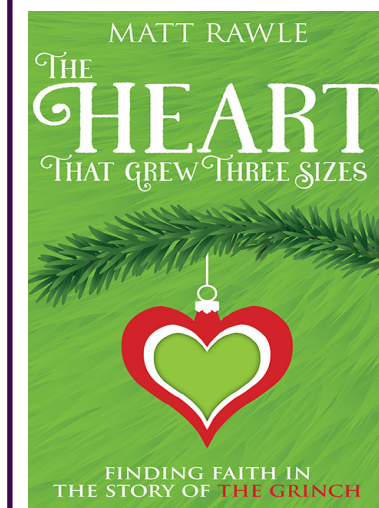


Wednesday Evening Children's and Youth Ministry!

Our Wednesday evenings are growing. We are averaging about 18 children and youth each week. The elementary children are working their way through the Fruits of the Spirit with Ms. Laura and the Youth have completed the Bible Basics series. The youth will begin the Matt Rawle's youth study *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes* for Christmas. Every Wednesday evening starts with Children's Music Ministry at 5:30, then at 6:00 we will share a meal, then move on to lessons from 6:30 until 7:30.

Sunday Early Worshipers!

Every Sunday from 9:00-9:45 our Early Worshipers meet. All children in grades K-12 are invited to attend. We provide light breakfast foods and juice to get the morning started. This time helps your child prepare for Worship and the lessons that they will learn during Children's Church. You can drop off as early as 8:45 if you are attending one of the adult morning classes.



Children's Church!

All children in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. This is a one room lesson where We will be exploring the Matt Rawle's children study, *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes* for Christmas. This series is designed to help children find faith in the story of The Grinch. Most of us have that family member that never really seems to get into the Christmas spirit. Or we worry about how the over commercialism of Christmas will impact our children. We will take this modern-day Christmas classic, and perhaps, discover new and unexpected ways to celebrate this Advent season. Merry Grinchmas!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Cathy Scott
(337) 396-9610

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Children's Music Ministry Notes:

The Children's Music Ministry is in full swing. We are busy learning music for Sunday Worship. A highlight of the rehearsal is playing the children's handbells. We are working on Christmas Music. Practice is every Wednesday evening at 5:30 in the Choir Room. Come be a part of this fun time!



Peggy Williams
Children's Music Ministry Director



FUMC - DeRidder Music Ministry Notes

Exciting things are happening in our music ministry. The hand bell ensemble has debuted, and thanks to donations we have been blessed with, we have ordered another octave of hand bells. In short, it means the hand bell ensemble can play music that has a "thicker" texture, and the sound will be fuller. I am also pleased to announce to all chancel choir members that we will be resuming full rehearsal beginning on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. In the meantime, all ensembles are working to provide meaningful worship experiences for all this upcoming Advent/Christmas season. Our vocal quartet is involved in preparing for Lessons and Carols, which will be held on Thursday, December 9 at 6 PM. I hope you will join us in person if you are able and willing.

John Schwarze - Director of Music
schwarze@fumcderidder.org

Hand Bell Choir

We were truly blessed on All Saints Sunday to hear the debut of the new Hand Bell Choir! They gave us a beautiful rendition of *It Is Well With My Soul*, by Philip P. Bliss. Looking forward to seeing what they have in store for us during the holiday season! A big thank you to Vondale Schwarze and her multiplying Hand Bell Choir!



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project: **Mission COMPLETE!**

This year we were able to collect and pack 126 shoeboxes. There will be 126 excited children when they are handed their red and green shoebox. Most importantly, each of these children will have the opportunity to learn about God and His love for them. On average, one box impacts lives nine people. Because of the generosity of FUMC 1,134 people could have the opportunity to know the love of God. We would like to thank Julie Porter for taking the lead as Project Leader and for all her hard work. We also appreciate the United Methodist women, as well as church family and friends in helping us fulfill this annual church project.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Project

The Aldersgate Sunday School is receiving requests for lights to be placed on the NEW Christmas tree located on the Church's south lawn. The lights will remain lit for the entire Christmas season!



\$3.00 per light

Lights can be designated in honor or in memory of loved ones. Proceeds from the lights are dedicated to the **Ehrin Bennett Scholarship Fund**, which supports students of Christian Education.

Final date to accept requests is **Friday, December 17, 2021.**
Thank you!



Dearest friends,
Thank you so much for your prayers during my recent health crisis. I developed diverticulitis. The pain overwhelmed me. I was alone in a Houston hospital, locked down due to COVID. I was adrift. In dark stormy seas. So I swam. Sometimes I could only float. Holding on to prayers, friendships, the Almighty, my guardian angels, the medical staff and memories....for dear life. I asked God to take me. I'm not strong enough to go on. No. Your work isn't done. He carried me. My friends, their prayers and my medical team carried me. You'll heal in time. Don't give up. We're not. So I gave in. To them. To you. My support team. My life guards. I lost hope. You found it. I lost faith. You showed me yours. I saw darkness. You showed me light. I emerged. Weak. Yet somehow stronger than I ever thought possible. Loved beyond measure. And feeling blessed for this awful experience. How do I say thank you when words are not enough? With this...We all have angels my friends. Whether we believe it or not. Some in this realm. Some in the other. Rely on them. They will see you through. I promise. I am living proof. A special thank you to Mary, Erin and Laraine. May you all be blessed as you have blessed me.

~Linda Kern

Missions Team: Christmas Basket News!

Our Missions Team has begun preparations for Christmas Food Baskets. This has been an annual event for many years.

The team purchases, sorts, and packages the items. Families and individuals who have signed up may ask for delivery or pick-up their baskets on Saturday, December 11th.

FUMC DeRidder has always been very generous with these gifts. We plan to accommodate 30 families this year! The cost of each basket is \$75.00. Any amount of donation is welcome. Please write "Christmas Baskets"

in the memo section of your check. Please pray for the recipients, that they may be nurtured not only by the generous amount of food, but also by the love and kindness generated through Almighty God.

Absolutely yes, you may help with the distribution. Call the Church Office or Susan Hill with any questions.

Thank you!



We had a wonderful response for the **Blessing of the Pets Ceremony** by the prayer garden. Look at all these adorable dogs receiving Rev. Laraine's blessing! The spread of love and smiles were certainly well received that Sunday afternoon!



Exercise Classes are back in the Gym!

We welcome back Cheri Childress and her business, Fitness2Go, from the covid-19 hiatus. Please check her Facebook page for more information.

Aerobics:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8:00 AM
PiYo (Pilates & Yoga):
Tuesday, Thursday - 8:00 AM



December Worship Volunteers!

December 5th

Greeters: Susan Hill
Readers: D. Lamar Oliver & Janet Oliver
Advent Wreath: Hammerschmidt Family

December 12th

Greeters: Lennie Hanchey
Readers: Cathy Scott & Joe Ann Lillie
Advent Wreath: Meadows Family

December 19th

Greeters: Jane Rathburn
Readers: Betty Nease & John Marcello
Advent Wreath: Oldaker Family

December 26th

Greeters: Rodney Fowler
Readers: Tim Kindler & John Schwarze

Special Christmas Services:

Blue Christmas

Greeters: Susan Hill
Reader: Gayle Bailey

Lessons & Carols

Greeters: Betty & Scotty Nease
Reader: Catherine White

Christmas Eve

5:30 PM Service

Greeters: Catherine White & Grant Beal
Readers: TBD & Rev. Laraine Waughtal
Advent Wreath: The Yoon Family

8:00 PM Service

Greeters: TBD

Readers: TBD & Rev. Laraine Waughtal
Advent Wreath: TBD

Thank you for all your help on Sundays to make our worship services run smoothly!

WHISTLING & WHITTling

My husband whistled all the time. Along with whistling, he loved to whittle. One day I stepped out onto the front porch and saw Ted whistling and whittling. As we visited I watched him take a small block of wood and turn it into a beautiful bird.

Ted: You wanna learn? It's easy.

Me: Really? It doesn't look easy.

Ted: It's simple. Here's you a block of wood; here's my best pocket knife. Now, all you have to do is take off the parts that don't look like a bird.

My surprise and confusion made us both laugh. Of course, he then lovingly taught me the do's and don'ts of whittling — go layer by layer, don't cut big chunks; use the right tools and take your time on feathers and small details; trust your eye to create something beautiful.

I use some of these rules in my life even now. Bible Study, Worship Service, Sunday School, my own quiet time — all these things help me "look" more like Jesus. We have been given living words that show us how a follower of Jesus should live. Galatians 5:22-23 says "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Guess what this is? A very distinct map of who I should be. So, if I am impatient, whittle it away. If I am not being kind and no love is being shown, whittle those times down to zero. If I lack joy and have no peace, I ask Him in prayer how I am to whittle that out of my life and regain joy and peace. I am called to be like Jesus. So I will keep on whittling away as I keep the sound of Ted's whistling close to my heart.



~Mary Allen



December 2021



- 1 Raymond Marcello
- 4 Mary Alice Wisdom
- 10 Kade Bardin
- Eleanor M. Jones
- 12 Bill Penney
- 13 Allen Hauser
- 14 Melanie Marcello
- 15 Vic Perry
- 20 Will Hagood
- Jacob Cobb
- 23 Patricia Launey
- 25 Jesus!
- 26 Belinda Green
- 29 John Morrow
- 30 Kenneth Bailey
- Colton Bailey
- 31 Kody Ingram

- 1 Will & Joanna Hagood
- 19 Billy & Mary Brister
- 28 Ray & Joanna Hauser
- 31 Bill & Dianne Penney
- Vic & Neil Perry
- Scotty & Betty Nease



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><div>28</div><div><div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary & Online - First Sunday of Advent</div><div>2:00 PM Family & Children's Advent Event</div><div>4:30 PM Handbell Practice in the Sanctuary</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>9:30 PM Finance Meeting in the Conference Room & Zoom</div><div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts Meet in the Gym</div><div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC</div><div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div><div>6:15 PM Bible Study - Conference Room & Zoom</div></div></div>	<div><div>1</div><div><div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/ Communion</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice - Sanctuary</div><div>5:30 PM Children's Music Choir Room</div><div>5:30 PM Called Change Conference via zoom for 854 in the Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Fellowship Hall</div></div></div>	<div><div>2</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>8:30 AM Women's Prayer Breakfast in the Conference Room</div><div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div><div>6:00 PM Scout Parent/Committee Meeting in the Conference Room</div></div></div>	<div><div>3</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>6:00 PM TCFF - Youth in the Youth Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>4</div><div><div>8:00 AM Breakfast with Santa at the Women Theater!</div><div>10:00 AM Breakfast with Santa at the Women Theater!</div></div></div>
<div><div>5</div><div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Communion Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Online</div><div>11:15 AM Potluck for Mary Launey in the Fellowship Hall</div><div>3:00 PM Handbells Practice in the Sanctuary</div><div>5:00 PM Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>6</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts Meet in the Gym</div><div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>7</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC</div><div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>8</div><div><div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/ Communion</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice - Sanctuary</div><div>5:30 PM Children's Music Choir Room</div><div>6:00 PM Bible Study - Conference Room & Zoom</div><div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Fellowship Hall</div></div></div>	<div><div>9</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>9:00 AM Bauregard Retired Teachers Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall</div><div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div><div>6:00 PM Lessons & Carols in the Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>10</div><div><div>Missions Christmas Bake Preparation in the Conference Room</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div></div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div><div>Hand out Christmas Baskets in Conference Room</div><div>10:00 AM Christmas Basket Pick-Up in the Conference Room</div><div>6:00 PM Community Movie Night: The Grinch at Wesley Campus</div></div></div>
<div><div>12</div><div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online</div><div>11:15 AM Start Meeting in the Choir Room</div><div>4:30 PM Handbells Practice in the Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>13</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>6:00 PM Start Christmas Party at the Parsonage</div><div>6:30 PM Cub Scouts Meet in the Gym</div><div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 30 meet on 3rd floor of MCLC Education Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>14</div><div><div>January '22 Newsletter Deadline</div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC</div><div>10:00 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Conference Room - Christmas party, bring sweets</div><div>5:30 PM Daisy/Brownie/Junior Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall Building</div></div></div>	<div><div>15</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/ Communion</div><div>10:00 AM Rosemary Carr, Conference Room</div><div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice - Sanctuary</div><div>5:30 PM Children's Music Choir Room</div><div>6:00 PM Bible Study - Conference Room & Zoom</div><div>6:00 PM Children & Youth Fellowship Hall</div></div></div>	<div><div>16</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in the Youth Building</div><div>6:30 PM Round Table District Scout Meeting in the Conference Room</div></div></div>	<div><div>17</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div></div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div></div></div>
<div><div>19</div><div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online</div><div>4:30 PM Handbells Practice in the Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>20</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div></div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>9:00 AM Merry Walkers in the Church Office</div><div>9:45 AM Chapel - MCLC</div></div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Facebook Devotional w/ Communion</div><div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice - Sanctuary</div><div>6:00 PM Bible Study - Conference Room & Zoom</div></div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div></div></div>	<div><div>24</div><div><div>Office & MCLC Close at 12 PM</div><div>Christmas Eve</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary</div><div>8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>25</div><div><div>Merry Christmas!</div></div></div>
<div><div>26</div><div><div>9:00 AM Sunday School</div><div>10:00 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary & Online</div></div></div>	<div><div>27</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Church Office Open from 8 AM - 12 PM</div></div></div>	<div><div>28</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Church Office Open from 8 AM - 12 PM</div></div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Church Office Open from 8 AM - 12 PM</div><div>4:30 PM Praise Ensemble Practice - Sanctuary</div></div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div><div>8:00 AM P/Yo (Phibes & Yoga) Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Church Office Open from 8 AM - 12 PM</div></div></div>	<div><div>31</div><div><div>New Year's Eve</div><div>8:00 AM Aerobics Class in the Gym</div><div>8:00 AM Church Office Open from 8 AM - 12 PM</div></div></div>	<div><div>1</div><div><div>New Year's Day</div></div></div>



In Memory of All Those Who Have Passed in 2021
Barbara Haynes

In Memory of Dick Myers
Laura & Claude Moses
Judge & Mrs. Kerry Anderson
Paula Green
Julie Porter
Dianne & Bill Penney
Susan Johnson
John Marcello
Tannie & Howard Helms

In Memory of Daisy Geiger
Lois & Alan Yount
Grant Beal
Babs Bloom
Tannie & Howard Helms



January Newsletter Deadline
Due to the staff being off and the Church Office being open half days the week after Christmas, we ask that any newsletter articles, pictures, and announcements be sent to erin@funcderidder.org or brought to the office ***no later than Tuesday, December 14th.***
No exceptions, folks. We appreciate you completing your work ahead of time to give the staff some time off with family during this holiday season.